

thing. I'm just going to be blunt about it. I would like to ask Senator Warner to comment about those responsibilities.

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner, would you respond, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Yes. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, as has been indicated by others, the Highway Commission is in fact advisory. The ultimate responsibility for the administration and operation of the Department of Roads rests with the Governor through their appointed director, state engineer. The purpose of the bill was, as all of us know, for administrative purposes. Essentially the Department of Roads has eight districts, eight district engineers. The purpose of the bill is to ensure representation in an advisory capacity from each of those districts across the state. I think the bill, in itself, is fine for that purpose. As far as the direct responsibility that the Highway Commission has, at least in an administrative capacity, there is virtually none, nor should there be. Ultimately the Governor should be held responsible for what is done. Now, as a practical matter, however, the Highway Commission does have impact. They are the ones that are responsible for holding the hearings on the one- and six-year programs. They make numerous recommendations to the administration. I think frequently those recommendations are followed. It is a way for public input. I suppose the most significant difference that comes to my mind is prior to 1953 virtually every road delegation or concern about a road, they were always met in the Governor's office. There was probably literally more than one meeting a week of some delegation. There is still some of that, of course. But I think the Highway Commission serves a very excellent purpose as a sounding board for proposals to holding public hearings, and to formalize input of public concerns on specific roads. But they are advisory, and to that extent I do not think they should be more than that.

PRESIDENT: All right, thank you very much. I understand we have the Landis amendment in. Just a moment, Senator Landis. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Landis would move to amend the bill. (Read Landis amendment as found on page 397 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Landis, please.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this